

28 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of Special Group, 28 June 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor, Mr. McCone, Mr. Nitze, and Mr. Hughes

Colonel Steakley and Captain Grayson were present for Item 1.

1. DOD Monthly Forecast of Peripheral Flights

Missions JONAH and JEAN, as well as the destroyer reconnaissance off the China coast, were approved.

General Taylor questioned, however, whether operations into the Sea of Okhotsk were going to become a regular thing. Colonel Steakley said that because of the high importance which SAC attaches to the

[redacted] Mr. Hughes said that the State Department would be concerned if SAC should suggest flying into this area on a routine basis. General Taylor agreed, and suggested that SAC should note the views of members of the Group in this respect.

Mr. McCone stated that he did not object to the destroyer mission, but questioned its usefulness. Colonel Steakley said that previous destroyers have triggered Communist alert systems that were not activated by overflights.

Colonel Steakley informed the Group that, in accordance with its recommendations, a directive had been sent to appropriate commanders to review their entire reconnaissance programs so as to make sure that they are responsive to actual needs.

2. [redacted] Counter-Insurgency Planning, Viet-Nam

[redacted] on CI planning for Viet-Nam for fiscal year 1963 was approved, subject to the following understandings and agreements.

NSC review(s) completed.

See special minutes
for additional items.

- 2 -

Mr. McCone said he understood that some elements of the Department of Defense have been considering whether, in view of the number of people involved, it would not be advisable for DOD now to take the lead in these programs, with CIA in support, rather than the reverse situation which now obtains. He said that either arrangement would be satisfactory to CIA, and recommended that the matter be worked out between the two agencies.

Mr. Mitze concurred with this suggestion, adding that the sizeable amount of funds required, above what has already been budgeted by CIA, will require more detailed examination. The matter of funding as well as overall leadership should be jointly considered. The Group approved the suggestion.

It was also agreed that after DOD and CIA come to an agreement on management and funding, concurrence be obtained from Admiral Felt, General Markins, and Ambassador Holting.

[REDACTED]

4. Aircraft for Possible Support [REDACTED]

Mr. McCone said that the first of the two C-123's which were approved sometime ago arrived at Lockheed two days ago for ECM configuration. He also reported that three additional C-123's were approved by higher authority during the week of the 4th of June, thereby making a total of five. The same procedure will apply to the additional three as to the original two. i.e., Defense will provide

[REDACTED]

The DCI emphasized that authorization of these airplanes does not constitute a commitment to support any [REDACTED] drops. He and Mr. Mitze pointed, however, to the necessity of having this capability available, while recognizing at the same time the increased difficulty this will engender in restraining public utterances

[REDACTED]

Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatrick
Mr. McCone
General Taylor

29 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL GROUP

SUBJECT: Authorization for Additional TACKLE Flight

On 21 June three TACKLE missions designed to secure information on the Chinese Communist buildup were approved. Two of these have now been flown.

The Director of Central Intelligence has requested standby authority to fly one more mission in addition to the one already authorized but not yet accomplished, in the event that weather conditions make it profitable to do so.

All other members of the Special Group have concurred in this request. Accordingly, it may be considered that as of this date, authority exists for two more missions of this type - to make a total of four, including the two already flown.

151

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatric
Mr. McCone